

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 19, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 13, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 215

Introduced by Senator Alpert
(Coauthor: Senator Vasconcellos)

February 13, 2003

An act to amend Sections 2100, ~~2102, and 2104 of, to amend the heading of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2100) of Division 2.5 of, and to add Section 2101 to and 2104 of, and to add Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 2200) to Division 2.5 of,~~ the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to minors.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 215, as amended, Alpert. Youth mentoring and youth development.

Existing law establishes the Governor's Mentoring Partnership, which includes specified legislative findings and declarations. These provisions state that it is the goal of the Legislature to give every young person in California access to a quality mentoring relationship. Existing law defines "mentoring" as a specified relationship to help younger at-risk persons as they go through life.

This bill would ~~rename those provisions as the Youth Development Act. The bill would~~ revise the statement of findings and declarations. ~~The bill would create the California Youth Policy Council, as specified, to coordinate state policy regarding youth development. The bill would also state that, to the extent possible, all state departments and offices serving children and youth should work closely with the State of~~

~~California Workforce Investment Board and its State Youth Council, as specified.~~ The bill would delete the limitation that the mentoring relationship is limited to at-risk persons.

The bill would also enact the Youth Development Act. The act would create the California Youth Policy Council (CYPC), as specified, to coordinate state policy regarding youth development. The bill would provide that these provisions would be implemented only to the extent that funds for the purpose of establishing and administering the CYPC are received, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1.—The heading of Chapter 3 (commencing with~~
2 ~~Section 2100) of Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code~~
3 ~~is amended to read:~~

4

5 ~~CHAPTER 3.—YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACT~~

6

7 ~~SEC. 2.~~

8 ~~SECTION 1.~~ Section 2100 of the Welfare and Institutions
9 Code is amended to read:

10 2100. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that California's
11 children are growing up under conditions of great stress that are
12 resulting in devastating effects on their development and
13 well-being. Structural changes in society, including the
14 breakdown and changes in the traditional family structure and
15 erosion and fragmentation of neighborhood community support
16 networks, have taken a ~~large~~ *significant* toll on children and young
17 people's welfare, self-esteem, and academic achievement. To
18 address these challenges, the State of California recognizes quality
19 mentoring as a critical youth development strategy, and a
20 cost-effective method of assisting today's youth to become
21 productive, contributing and engaged members of society, and as
22 an important source of data for improving the quality of all
23 relationships between youth and adults. Research finds that
24 without the caring support, counsel, and role modeling of more
25 experienced individuals or exposure to natural support networks,
26 young people are much more vulnerable to the destructive forces



1 of apathy, abuse, and neglect. As we acknowledge the increasing
2 numbers of children who do not have the benefit of positive
3 relationships, there has been an increasing recognition of the value
4 of mentoring, an activity that connects a caring and more
5 experienced person with a young person who is in need of attention
6 and support. As a means of maximizing public resources,
7 mentoring is both efficient and effective, relying on volunteers as
8 the core service providers to create collateral improvements in the
9 lives of youth. The public investment in the youth development
10 strategy of mentoring has inspired significant private support at
11 the local level. Mentoring principles may also be used to create
12 mentor-rich environments wherever youth and adults interact on
13 a regular basis, thereby effectively expanding the world of positive
14 adult contacts for youth in their natural environments.

15 (b) The complexities of supporting mentoring organizations
16 and promoting the formation of positive developmental
17 relationships wherever young people and adults interact requires
18 the coordinated and sustained support of many private and public
19 sector organizations to ensure that their services are available to all
20 young persons who wish to have a mentor. To meet the needs of
21 each young person, mentor services should be available in
22 communities throughout California and mentor-rich
23 environments should be created wherever young people and adults
24 interact on a regular basis. Mentor programs should be culturally
25 and linguistically competent and should embrace the rich diversity
26 of the state. It is the intent of the Legislature and the purpose of this
27 chapter to foster a partnership between the public and private
28 sector for the long-term support of quality mentor programs and
29 mentor-rich environments in which young people can interact on
30 a regular basis with an array of caring adults.

31 (c) Mentoring California's youth has been carried on by
32 thousands of dedicated volunteers through local mentor
33 organizations and with the very significant contributions of the
34 business community in both time and money. State and local
35 government agencies also operate and support mentor programs.
36 However, the need far outweighs the current available resources.
37 The valuable potential services of many caring adults and older
38 youth continue to go untapped while the waiting list of children in
39 need continues to grow, and distant youth-adult relationships



1 continue to exist where developmental youth-adult relationships
2 could flourish.

3 (d) The Legislature recognizes that mentoring is an important
4 part of a broader, more holistic view of helping youth to realize
5 their full potential, commonly known as youth development. This
6 view is gaining wider credence in the world of policy and practice.
7 Adolescence is the time when youth need to acquire the attitudes,
8 competencies, values and social skills that will carry them forward
9 to successful adulthood. It is also the time when they need to avoid
10 choices and behaviors that will limit their future potential. The
11 broader youth development approach attends to both sets of
12 concerns and creates a larger guiding framework to promote
13 positive outcomes for all young people. The Legislature also
14 recognizes that California youth would be better served if the wide
15 range of programs, activities, and initiatives to improve their
16 well-being were guided by a coordinating structure to increase the
17 coherence and effectiveness of their policies and practices. The
18 State of California should have a comprehensive system of
19 programs, services and supports for youth that is integrated,
20 cost-effective, and sustainable. State government is uniquely
21 positioned to be able to look across the wide array of services and
22 supports provided to young people. It can join forces with
23 communities to both leverage the investments of these programs,
24 and utilize the talents and interests of young people themselves, to
25 create a more comprehensive response to young people's needs.

26 SEC. 3.—Section 2101 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
27 Code, to read:

28 2101.—(a) The California Youth Policy Council (CYPC) shall
29 be formed to serve as a vehicle for policymakers across state
30 systems, including education, juvenile justice, youth employment,
31 human services, health, and community services, to think, plan,
32 and act in new, cross-sector ways. The CYPC shall work closely
33 with the State Youth Council, which was established in 2001 by the
34 California Workforce Investment Board to provide leadership for
35 youth development by: (1) providing policy guidance for local
36 youth councils; (2) promoting coordination among the myriad of
37 community-based youth programs; and, (3) addressing critical
38 issues affecting California's youth. The CYPC shall bring together
39 a diverse group of representatives from youth constituency
40 groups, youth serving state agencies, the educational system, and

~~community-based groups and organizations, to the same policy influencing table in the interest of fostering and promoting the positive development of all California youth.~~

~~(b) Collaborative efforts with the State Youth Council, the State Agency Collaborative on Mentoring and Youth Development, the California Interagency Prevention Partnership and other groups with similar and related goals, shall include, but not be limited to:~~

~~(1) Developing an overarching multidisciplinary youth policy framework in order to guide, monitor, and enhance the state's overall commitment to young people across departmental lines.~~

~~(2) Developing common standards for evaluating and assessing whether any given policy promotes positive youth development, regardless of its origin.~~

~~(3) Developing an organized cross-sector method for collecting and reporting indicators of the development of young people.~~

~~(4) Conducting ongoing assessments of the array of services, supports, and opportunities available to young people, including the ways they are being involved in policymaking at all levels.~~

~~(5) Establishing clear evaluation criteria and program quality standards to be applied across departments and agencies, and developing capacity building strategies to assist departments and agencies to meet and exceed those standards.~~

~~(6) Strengthening action alliances among organizations and individuals committed to youth across sectors and systems.~~

~~(c) (1) Within the "All Youth One System" framework developed by the Youth Council Institute, the CYPC shall particularly focus on working in partnership with other collaboratives committed to establishing coordinated responses to reduce youth failure and increase youth opportunities, and with educational systems pursuing youth-focused strategies of school reform.~~

~~(2) The CYPC shall provide a communication mechanism to facilitate collaborative efforts locally, regionally, and on a statewide basis.~~

~~(3) The CYPC shall meet quarterly and the rotating chair, who shall serve no more than two consecutive years, shall be selected by the membership.~~

~~(4) Members of the CYPC shall be identified as commissioners. There shall be _____ commissioners. All commissioners shall hold leadership and decisionmaking positions within their organization and shall be connected to a youth-serving constituency. To ensure representation from the full range of state-level youth-serving agencies, commissioners shall be drawn from the following state entities and organizations:~~

~~(A) The CYPC shall include the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health Human Services, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.~~

~~(B) The CYPC shall also include one representative from each of the following: the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, and the California Youth Authority.~~

~~(C) A maximum of five additional commissioners who are involved in state-level efforts to reduce youth failure and create youth opportunities and meet the above-referenced leadership criteria shall be invited to join the council. Members of the CYPC listed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall invite the members described in this subparagraph to join the CYPC.~~

~~(D) The Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each appoint two commissioners who shall serve without compensation.~~

~~(E) In addition to the above, there shall be not less than _____ commissioners representing the following types of groups: youth advocacy organizations, community-based youth services organizations and service clubs, private foundations and funders, research and evaluation groups, technical assistance and capacity building intermediaries, and youth media and communications groups. These members shall be selected by members of the CYPC listed in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive.~~

~~(F) No less than 25 percent of the membership of the council shall consist of young people, from 14 to 24 years of age, inclusive. The first cohort of young people shall be nominated by the adult commissioners. Future cohorts shall be nominated by both youth and adult council members. The young people shall be selected, trained, and supported as a group, and shall be deployed to represent the full range of departments and agencies serving young people. Young people shall be selected to reflect the diversity of~~

1 ~~California's youth, bridging geographic, socioeconomic, and~~
2 ~~racial lines, as well as engaging young people involved in state~~
3 ~~programs and services.~~

4 ~~(5) Commissioners of the CYPC shall serve at the pleasure of~~
5 ~~their appointing authority.~~

6 ~~SEC. 4. Section 2102 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is~~
7 ~~amended to read:~~

8 ~~2102. It is the goal of the Legislature in enacting this chapter~~
9 ~~to do all of the following:~~

10 ~~(a) To give every young person in California access to a quality~~
11 ~~mentoring relationship. This shall be accomplished by sustaining~~
12 ~~or growing the state's resources under the auspices of the~~
13 ~~Governor's Mentoring Partnership, to the extent those resources~~
14 ~~are available. The Legislature recognizes the efforts of state~~
15 ~~departments who have supported local mentor programs under the~~
16 ~~Governor's Mentoring Partnership, including the State~~
17 ~~Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the California~~
18 ~~Conservation Corps, the Department of the Youth Authority, the~~
19 ~~Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, the Department~~
20 ~~of Community Services and Development, the State Department~~
21 ~~of Education, the State Department of Health Services, the~~
22 ~~Department of Justice, the Office of the Secretary for Education,~~
23 ~~and the Office of Criminal Justice Planning. To the extent possible,~~
24 ~~all state departments and offices serving children and youth should~~
25 ~~work closely with the State of California Workforce Investment~~
26 ~~Board and its State Youth Council in their efforts to achieve "All~~
27 ~~Youth—One System." This base of support shall be sustained or~~
28 ~~increased predicated upon the performance outcomes in~~
29 ~~successfully addressing the four risk factors, and in ensuring that~~
30 ~~youth are problem free, and fully prepared for the responsibilities~~
31 ~~and challenges of adulthood.~~

32 ~~(b) To direct consideration towards identifying opportunities~~
33 ~~for increased private sector investment in the support and~~
34 ~~expansion of mentoring.~~

35 ~~(c) To encourage state agencies and departments to collaborate~~
36 ~~to build youth developmental assets.~~

37 ~~SEC. 5.~~

38 ~~SEC. 2. Section 2104 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is~~
39 ~~amended to read:~~

2104. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

~~(a) “All Youth—One System” refers to the entire constellation of opportunities and supports that communities must provide its young people to enable them to move forward into successful adulthood.~~

~~(b)~~

(a) “Mentoring” means a relationship over a period of time in which caring and concerned adults and older youth provide support, guidance, and help to younger persons as they go through life.

~~(c)~~

(b) “Mentor-rich environments” are environments that create many opportunities for young people to interact with an array of caring adults and where youth feel respected, connected, and affirmed.

~~(d)~~

(c) “Youth development” is the acquisition of attitudes, competencies, values, and social skills that will carry youth forward into successful adulthood.

SEC. 3. Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 2200) is added to Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACT

2200. (a) The Legislature recognizes that mentoring relationships, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and opportunities for youth to contribute are all important parts of a broader, more holistic view of helping youth to realize their full potential, commonly known as youth development. This view is gaining wider credence in the world of policy and practice. Adolescence is the time when youth need to acquire the attitudes, competencies, values, and social skills that will carry them forward to successful adulthood. It is also the time when they need to avoid choices and behaviors that will limit their future potential. The broader youth development approach attends to both sets of concerns and creates a larger guiding framework to promote positive outcomes for all young people. Substantial research now exists to suggest that developing the strengths, interests, and competencies of young people is also a powerful prevention

1 *strategy. The research further suggests that, when consistently*
2 *applied in the schools, youth developing principles and practices*
3 *lead to increased commitment to learning and improved academic*
4 *performance. The Legislature also recognizes that California*
5 *youth would be better served if the wide range of programs,*
6 *activities, and initiatives to improve their well-being were guided*
7 *by a coordinating structure to increase the coherence and*
8 *effectiveness of their policies and practices. The State of*
9 *California should have a comprehensive system of programs,*
10 *services, and supports for youth that is integrated, cost-effective,*
11 *and sustainable. State government is uniquely positioned to be*
12 *able to look across the wide array of services and supports*
13 *provided to young people. It can join forces with communities to*
14 *both leverage the investments of these programs, and utilize the*
15 *talents and interests of young people themselves, to create a more*
16 *comprehensive response to young people's needs.*

17 2202. (a) *The California Youth Policy Council (CYPC) shall*
18 *be formed to serve as a vehicle for policymakers across state*
19 *systems, including education, health, human services, youth*
20 *employment, juvenile justice, and community services, to think,*
21 *plan, and act in new, cross-sector ways. The CYPC shall work*
22 *closely with the California State Youth Council, established by the*
23 *California Workforce Investment Board, to provide leadership for*
24 *youth by: (1) providing policy guidance for local youth councils*
25 *created by the California Workforce Investment Act (Division 7*
26 *commencing with Section 14000) of the Unemployment*
27 *Insurance Code); (2) promoting coordination among the myriad*
28 *of community-based youth programs; and (3) addressing critical*
29 *issues affecting California's youth. The CYPC shall bring together*
30 *a diverse group of representatives from youth constituency groups,*
31 *youth serving state agencies, the educational system, and*
32 *community-based groups and organizations, to the same policy*
33 *influencing table in the interest of fostering and promoting the*
34 *positive development of all California youth.*

35 (b) *Collaborative efforts with the California State Youth*
36 *Council, the State Agency Collaborative on Mentoring and Youth*
37 *Development, the California Interagency Prevention Partnership*
38 *and other similar groups with related goals, shall include, but not*
39 *be limited to:*

- 1 *(1) Developing an overarching multidisciplinary youth policy*
2 *framework in order to guide, monitor, and enhance the state's*
3 *overall commitment to young people across departmental lines.*
- 4 *(2) Developing common standards for evaluating and*
5 *assessing whether any given policy promotes positive youth*
6 *development, regardless of its origin.*
- 7 *(3) Developing an organized cross-sector method for*
8 *collecting and reporting indicators of the development of young*
9 *people.*
- 10 *(4) Conducting ongoing assessments of the array of services,*
11 *supports, and opportunities available to young people, including*
12 *the ways they are being involved in policymaking at all levels.*
- 13 *(5) Establishing clear evaluation criteria and program quality*
14 *standards to be applied across departments and agencies, and*
15 *developing capacity building strategies to assist departments and*
16 *agencies to meet and exceed those standards.*
- 17 *(6) Strengthening action alliances among organizations and*
18 *individuals committed to youth across sectors and systems.*
- 19 *(c) (1) The CYPC shall particularly focus on working in*
20 *partnership with other collaboratives committed to establishing*
21 *coordinated responses to reduce youth failure and increase youth*
22 *opportunities, and with educational systems pursuing*
23 *youth-focused strategies of school reform.*
- 24 *(2) The CYPC shall provide a communication mechanism to*
25 *facilitate collaborative efforts locally, regionally, and on a*
26 *statewide basis.*
- 27 *(3) The CYPC shall meet quarterly and the rotating chair, who*
28 *shall serve no more than two consecutive years, shall be selected*
29 *by the membership. Foundation and private funding shall be*
30 *secured to support the work of the council.*
- 31 *(4) Members of the CYPC shall be identified as commissioners.*
32 *There shall be 25 commissioners. All commissioners shall hold*
33 *leadership and decisionmaking positions within their organization*
34 *and shall be connected to a youth-serving constituency. To ensure*
35 *representation from the full range of state level youth-serving*
36 *agencies, commissioners shall be drawn from the following state*
37 *entities and organizations:*
- 38 *(A) The CYPC shall include the Attorney General, the*
39 *Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Superintendent of*
40 *Public Instruction, and the Secretary for the Office of Education.*



(B) The CYPC shall also include one representative from each of the following: the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the California Community Colleges, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, and the county superintendents of schools.

(C) A maximum of five additional commissioners who are involved in state-level or regional efforts to reduce youth failure and create youth opportunities and meet the above referenced leadership criteria shall be invited to join the council. These members may be drawn from, but not limited to, state youth-serving departments, city, county, or regional government, and nonprofit organizations involved in youth development.

(D) The Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each appoint one commissioner who shall serve without compensation. The Senate Rules Committee shall ensure that the members described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) are selected and hold their first meeting within six months of the enactment of this chapter. At the initial organizational meeting, a subcommittee of the membership shall be formed to create a process whereby the commissioners described in subparagraphs (C) and (E) are selected.

(E) In addition to the members selected pursuant to subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, there shall be no fewer than five commissioners, which may be youth or adults, representing the following types of groups: youth advocacy organizations, community-based youth services organizations, service clubs, private foundations and funders, research and evaluation groups, technical assistance and capacity building intermediaries, and youth media and communications groups. Other groups to be considered shall include, but are not limited to, the following: the California Coalition for Youth, the California Youth Connection, the California Center for Civic Participation and Youth Development, Friday Night Live, the YMCA, and 4-H.

(F) Not less than 25 percent of the membership of the council shall consist of young people, from 14 to 24 years of age, inclusive. The first cohort of young people shall be nominated by the adult commissioners. Future cohorts shall be nominated by both youth and adult council members. The young people shall be selected, trained, and supported as a group, and shall be deployed to represent the full range of departments and agencies serving young people.

1 (G) Commissioners selected pursuant to subparagraphs (C) to
2 (F), inclusive, shall reflect the diversity of California, bridging
3 geographic, socioeconomic, and racial lines, as well as identifying
4 youth and adults involved in state programs and services.

5 (5) Commissioners of the CYPC shall serve at the pleasure of
6 their appointing authority.

7 (d) (1) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that
8 funds for the purpose of establishing and administering the CYPC
9 are received by persons described in paragraph (4) of subdivision
10 (c) from private or other nonstate sources.

11 (2) The CYPC shall work with private entities, including
12 nonprofit organizations and foundations, to obtain funding from
13 private sources necessary to support the work of the CYPC.

